



Winthrop University
Digital Commons @ Winthrop
University

[Browse All Oral History Interviews](#)

[Oral History Program](#)

7-15-2013

Interview with Jane West

Jane West

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

West, Jane, "Interview with Jane West" (2013). *Browse All Oral History Interviews*. OH 274.
<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/10>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral History Program at Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Browse All Oral History Interviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. For more information, please contact bramed@winthrop.edu.

**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #274
WEST, Jane**

WEST, Jane

Biology major from 1964-1968

At Winthrop: 1964-1968

Interviewed: July 15, 2013

Interviewer: Martha Manning

Index by: Cody Willis

Length: 50 minutes

Abstract: In her July 15, 2013 interview with Martha Manning, Jane West details her time at Winthrop as a Biology major in the 1960s. Briefly, West discusses student life and Winthrop traditions, but she provides insight into her life student teaching at Florence High School. Additionally, West includes her experience in required courses like English and Math, as well as experiments conducted in her Biology courses. West concludes the interview with her overall perceptions of Winthrop. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Biology, student teaching, Florence High School, 1960s, blue line, traditions, food, rules and regulations, Alumni

Interview Session (July 15, 2013): Digital File

Time	Keywords
00:00:00	<i>Start of Interview</i> /Interviewer's Introduction
00:00:20	MM: We're here today for a very special reason. This is called an oral history interview, and the time now is 3 o'clock. We'll be conducting this interview in the Louis Pettus Archives and Special Collections building at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina. You are?
00:00:52	JW: Jane West.
00:00:53	MM: And you're from Rock Hill?
00:00:54	JW: Yes.
00:00:55	MM: And I am the one doing the interview and I'm Martha Manning. Before

we get started recording anything coming from you I want you to tell me its ok that we have this on recording.

00:01:11 JW: Yes that's fine.

00:01:13 **MM: Thank you very much. Think back to the time before you came here, you were in high school.**

00:01:21 JW: Yes.

00:01:23 **MM: Why did you decide to come to Winthrop?**

00:01:27 JW: Well, I lived in Rock Hill and Winthrop had a good reputation, and I didn't really know what I wanted to do but I figured I could find out after I came here. My grandmother had gone to Winthrop.

00:1:41 **MM: How wonderful.**

00:1:43 JW: She was a teacher too, so I ended up teaching, but that wasn't what I started out to do.

00:1:48 **MM: And her name was?**

00:01:49 JW: She was Jane—that's who I'm named for—Carson and she married my grandfather Cato.

00:01:57 **MM: And what years were you here?**

00:01:59 JW: I was here from 1964 through '68.

00:02:04 **MM: Did you have to take any kind of entrance exam?**

00:02:09 JW: We took advanced placement tests somehow. We were invited to take a couple of them and I only took one. I took a biology test, and I think I was invited to take a French test, but I didn't want to do that.

00:02:28 **MM: You weren't going to take French?**

00:02:28 JW: No, well I took French but I knew I didn't—

00:02:30 **MM: Did you really?**

00:02:32 JW: Yes, I took French for three years but I knew—

00:02:35 **MM: Do you speak it now?**

00:02:36 JW: No, I couldn't. That's why I didn't take the advanced placement.

00:02:41 **MM: Did you live on campus?**

00:02:43 JW: I did for three years.

00:02:45 **MM: The first three?**

00:02:46 JW: First three years.

00:02:48 **MM: Did you have a car?**

00:02:49 JW: No, I did not have a car.

00:02:52 **MM: You were here and your parents came to get you on the weekends?**

00:02:56 JW: Somebody would come get me on the weekends.

00:02:58 **MM: So you spent weekends with your parents?**

00:03:00 JW: Pretty much.

00:03:01 **MM: And you went to your home church on the weekends?**

00:03:03 JW: Yes.

00:03:05 **MM: Tell me about your roommate.**

00:03:08 JW: Well, my best friend and I—she's been my best friend since first grade—we decided not to room together. She came to Winthrop too, and I don't know why we decided—it was a good thing probably—but we decided not to room together, so I don't know how I got my roommate, but we started corresponding before we both came here. Her name was Shirley Mason and I think she was from Greer. She was a very sweet girl. We roomed together our freshman year. For the next two years I suited with my best friend and her roommate and I lived the next two years with a cousin of mine who was a year younger.

00:03:56 **MM: Do you remember the name of the dorm?**

00:03:57 JW: The first dorm I lived in was McLaurin and the next two years I lived in

Phelps.

00:04:04 **MM: Which one did you like best?**

00:04:06 JW: I liked Phelps.

00:04:11 **MM: Did you get home sick?**

00:04:12 JW: I did. I had never been away from home except for maybe a week at camp and I got home sick then too, but I think knowing that I couldn't get home helped.

00:04:28 **MM: You knew you'd be there in a couple of nights?**

00:04:30 JW: Yes.

00:04:35 **MM: Did you ever have room inspection?**

00:04:39 JW: I can't remember room inspection.

00:04:42 **MM: Could you have anything electrical in your room?**

00:04:45 JW: We weren't supposed to have any cooking things. The freshman year those bathrooms were at the end of the hall—kind of communal; the showers and toilets and all—sinks were in a communal thing and we weren't supposed to have anything in the room. I guess we could have a clock.

00:05:06 **MM: A radio?**

00:05:08 JW: A record player and a radio maybe and a clock.

00:05:11 **MM: You didn't have TVs?**

00:05:14 JW: Not until we moved to an upperclassmen dorm, but we weren't suppose to cook so we didn't do that then.

00:05:25 **MM: Did you have any rule to tell you lights out?**

00:05:28 JW: We had study hours every night during the week from 7 to 10, and you could not make noise or visit with people in other rooms or—you had to be in your room. You didn't have to study if you didn't want to, but you had to be quiet and not disturb people. You got in trouble if you—I remember one time somebody came by our open door and wanted to speak to the people in the next room, but their door was closed and they got me to tap on the wall. I got in trouble.

Somebody reported me and I had to—I don't know what the punishment was but...

00:06:10 **MM: You don't remember the punishment?**

00:06:11 JW: I don't remember the punishment, but I didn't do it again.

00:06:16 **MM: Did you have dorm mothers?**

00:06:17 JW: We did, now—

00:06:17 **MM: That's who it was reported to?**

00:06:18 JW: I guess so, seems like there was some kind of student body that ruled, sort of like a judicial board or something for each dorm, but our house mother was Mrs. Kendal.

00:06:32 **MM: You still remember that?**

00:06:34 JW: Because I looked in the annual, but she was nice.

00:06:38 **MM: Did she live there?**

00:26:39 JW: She lived there in the room.

00:06:44 **MM: What do you think about the Blue Line? I know you looked at that and thought about it.**

00:06:50 JW: I don't ever remember being a part of that.

00:06:53 **MM: That's when they wore uniforms.**

00:06:54 JW: Yes.

00:06:56 **MM: They weren't wearing uniforms when you were here?**

00:06:58 JW: No, they had stopped the uniforms, but we still had the Blue, well I don't know—the line that walked to church. From so many churches—

00:07:08 **MM: You still had it?**

00:07:09 JW: We still had that, but I don't remember being a part of that and I don't think you could go home the first two weeks so I don't know whether I just didn't go to

church or what.

00:07:19 **MM: Were your clothes monitored? Did you have a dress code?**

00:07:23 JW: We had a dress code. I don't think we could—I graduated in '68—and I don't think you could wear slacks.

00:07:32 **MM: To class?**

00:07:33 JW: No, I don't believe so. It seems like we wore skirts and dresses. I don't ever remember wearing pants, or if you wore that you had to be on back campus. You couldn't be in the front part of the campus.

00:07:48 **MM: Haven't we've come a ways.**

00:07:49 JW: Yes, we have.

00:07:51 **MM: Do you remember anything about the rules of playing cards or smoking or stuff like that on campus?**

00:07:58 JW: No, cause I did start smoking.

00:08:01 **MM: You did?**

00:08:02 JW: I did and I smoked. I don't know how that poor roommate stood it, but she didn't smoke.

00:08:07 **MM: Could you smoke in the rooms?**

00:08:10 JW: Yes, we smoked in the rooms and we smoked walking to class except you couldn't—I don't remember. There were strange rules. You couldn't smoke standing up in the front part of the campus, but you could other places. It was strange.

00:08:24 **MM: They didn't want the public to see it?**

00:08:26 JW: That's right. They didn't care if you did it, but they didn't want people to see it.

00:08:33 **MM: Would you have liked to have been in that group that wore uniforms?**

00:08:36 JW: No.

- 00:08:37 **MM: You wanted to be more free?**
- 00:08:40 JW: I guess so. I didn't care a whole lot about clothes anyways, but I don't think I would have liked having to wear the uniforms.
- 00:08:52 **MM: Do you remember anything about your PE classes? Were they required?**
- 00:08:57 JW: They were, and I enjoyed—I was kind of a tom boy and athletic and I did well in—I played basketball on an intermural team.
- 00:09:06 **MM: Did you?**
- 00:09:07 JW: Oh yes. I was short but I was fast and I played. It seems like I took tennis—a class of tennis and badminton and golf.
- 00:09:18 **MM: Anything with a ball?**
- 00:09:18 JW: Golf, I played. I enjoyed those sports
- 00:09:24 **MM: Do you remember the uniforms you had to change into?**
- 00:09:29 JW: Not really. I'm sure they weren't very attractive [laughter].
- 00:09:33 **MM: They covered your body is what you're trying to say?**
- 00:09:35 JW: Yes, they weren't...I can't even remember what they were like, but I'm sure they weren't pretty. I do know we had to pass a swimming test to graduate.
- 00:09:46 **MM: Tell me about that.**
- 00:09:47 JW: Well, I could swim, not really, really well, but we had to jump in the pool and tread water for a certain length time and if you could do that you could graduate.
- 00:10:02 **MM: You couldn't get a diploma if you couldn't swim?**
- 00:10:04 JW: No, you had to pass that test before you graduated. Now I'm sure that's changed.
- 00:10:07 **MM: I'd be left out.**
- 00:10:09 JW: Oh, really [laughter]?

00:10:11 **MM: One piece suit?**

00:10:13 JW: Yes.

00:10:15 **MM: They told you what kind to wear?**

00:10:17 JW: Yes, and I don't ever remember taking any swimming classes since I could swim, but those bathing suits weren't very pretty, but they were one piece.

00:10:30 **MM: They issued them to you?**

00:10:31 JW: Seems like they did; seems like everybody looked the same somehow.

00:10:38 **MM: Tell me about the food, the dining room and waiting in line.**

00:10:44 JW: We did, but it wasn't long waits. I was thinking on the way over here—I started to—I should have ridden through the campus to refresh my memory. Things have changed so the buildings are different, but we had to walk from McLaurin Hall, which was in those days connected to the oval ivory and that was one good thing because we could in that dorm—no matter what the weather—we could walk protected to the library. The dining hall, I can't remember—the name of it is escaping me, but it was not too far. Beautiful old building and the food was good. I don't think I ever went much to breakfast. I'd rather sleep than get up early to go to breakfast.

00:11:33 **MM: So you went to class without eating. Could you keep snacks in the room?**

00:11:37 JW: I guess we could.

00:11:38 **MM: You didn't have a refrigerator did you?**

00:11:41 JW: No, there were no refrigerators.

00:11:43 **MM: So how did you keep your drink or whatever you were going to have cool?**

00:11:46 JW: I don't guess we did [laughter]. I don't remember.

00:11:49 **MM: There wasn't anywhere to go get ice?**

00:11:51 JW: They had drink machines down in the basement. I do remember going up and

down. They had maybe cracker machines and soft drink machines, so that may be where we got our nourishment.

00:12:05 **MM: But you ate lunch and dinner?**

00:12:06 JW: Yes

00:12:08 **MM: And the food was good?**

00:12:09 JW: It was good, yes.

00:12:10 **MM: No choices; it was like a menu?**

00:12:13 JW: No, seems like...I just know that I didn't go hungry.

00:12:22 **MM: Do you remember any of the concerts or speakers that you had?**

00:12:27 JW: I remember listening to Betty Friedan.

00:12:31 **MM: What did she do?**

00:12:32 JW: She was a feminist. One of the first feminist and she wrote the *Feminine Mystique* and we heard her.

00:12:40 **MM: And what was her name?**

00:12:41 JW: Betty Friedan.

00:12:44 **MM: Friedan?**

00:12:45 JW: Yes and I remember—

00:12:46 **MM: Where was she from?**

00:12:48 JW: I don't know, she was probably maybe New York-ish, but I remember meeting Gloria Steinem.

00:12:53 **MM: Did you really?**

00:12:54 JW: Yes. We had to wait two hours. Her plane was delayed, but we waited to hear her and then after the speech she met with—I don't know who we were but I got to talk to her later and that was interesting because she was another one of the feminist. In those days we had compulsory meetings in the auditorium weekly.

00:13:27 **MM: Like devotionals?**

00:13:28 JW: No it wasn't that, it was something...

00:13:33 **MM: One time a week?**

00:13:34 JW: It seemed like it was once a week and there were proctors who checked your seat.

00:13:40 **MM: Because they were assigned?**

00:13:41 JW: We had assigned seats and you had to be in it, and I went to those. Sometimes they were enjoyable and sometimes they weren't but we all had to go, every...

00:13:53 **MM: Once a week?**

00:13:53 JW: Once a week, and I don't even remember what day.

00:13:55 **MM: And it wasn't devotional?**

00:13:57 JW: It wasn't devotional.

00:13:59 **MM: Was it something like keeping you abreast of what's happening on the campus or rules?**

00:14:04 JW: Sometimes it was guest speakers; sometimes it was somebody from the college talking. There were programs. I can't remember what they were.

00:14:18 **MM: How about the music program here at the school? Did they have programs or concerts?**

00:14:24 JW: They did. I remember going once to an evening program and it was the Russian ballet. That was something that that's the first time I had ever seen anything like that so there were cultural things that—I was a country girl and I—

00:14:43 **MM: Did you have a TV at home?**

00:14:45 JW: We did. We had a television at home but we didn't get that TV until probably the early 50s. I remember not having a TV when some of our neighbors did and we'd go across the street to watch with them on Saturdays, but we didn't have a TV at Winthrop until we moved to the upperclassmen dorms. One of the girls had

a little portable and we watched stories and...

00:15:13 **MM: Soap operas?**

00:15:14 JW: Soap operas, yes [laughter].

00:15:18 **MM: Did you join any clubs?**

00:15:22 JW: Not really. The only club I can remember being a part of was an honorary biology club called tri beta—beta beta beta—and after I had majored in biology the first year or two I was inducted into that and the last year—

00:15:46 **MM: What were there requirements? Good grades?**

00:15:48 JW: Yes, probably good grades because I didn't get in right away. I made the mistake—those advanced placement test. When I was in high school we had a special teacher, Alice Linder. She taught me freshman biology in the 9th grade. Then, in the 11th grade she offered an advanced biology class and somehow she had gotten a grant and a commission, and she did a course that was called biological curriculum study, BSCS. I think there were three versions and the one we used was the one that—the blue books and they were so new that they weren't even hard back. They were paper back that had three lab books and three text books so it was kind of an experimental thing, but we did that for a year. She had a whole class of just girls. There were no guys in our class in high school. We loved—that's why I majored in biology because of Mrs. Linder and when we got to take the Winthrop test, the advanced placement test we opened it and there was the little symbol, it was a BSCS test and—

00:17:05 **MM: And that's what you had been taking?**

00:17:08 JW: That's what I just got through studying so we, a couple of us just aced that because it was exactly what we had spent a year studying.

00:17:15 **MM: What did you do in lab in biology? Did you use an animal?**

00:17:20 JW: We grew things. We dissected things in high school. We did...I can't remember all the stuff, but it was more than just freshman biology. The bad part was having I guess done ok on that advanced placement test, we went right into sophomore classes—biology classes—so we didn't have to take the freshman which was kind of an overview. Maybe we really didn't need it, but it was rough going into those zoology and things that we weren't gradually prepared for, but it took us a year so. We got our sea legs.

00:18:03 **MM: Think about what made you have this interest in biology.**

00:18:07 JW: It was Alice Linder.

00:18:08 **MM: Your teacher?**

00:18:10 JW: High school teacher. We just loved her, the way she taught.

00:18:14 **MM: Nothing in your home environment?**

00:18:16 JW: Not really, except I loved animals and I loved outdoor things.

00:18:19 **MM: Did you have cows and saw animals being born?**

00:18:24 JW: We had horses. Yes, my family has always raised horses.

00:18:29 **MM: So it was innate in you to like biology?**

00:18:31 JW: Yes, I guess, but I thought for a while that I wanted to be a doctor, but we didn't have the money for that and I probably wasn't smart enough, but I ended up getting a teaching degree in biology.

00:18:50 **MM: You did student teaching?**

00:18:52 JW: That's my senior year.

00:18:53 **MM: In high school?**

00:18:54 JW: I went to Florence and student taught at a high school there.

00:19:02 **MM: Why in Florence?**

00:19:03 JW: That's where they put us. They put us wherever there were places.

00:19:07 **MM: And you were boarded there?**

00:19:08 JW: We boarded there.

00:19:10 **MM: Did someone go with you? Another student?**

00:19:13 JW: A girl from Myrtle Beach. She was married and she and I lived together. This was a strange situation, but we lived in the home of a fellow whose name was

Pete Hyman¹, and he was in the House of Representatives, and his wife had decided after they had three little children she wanted to go to medical school. So she ups and goes to Charleston and leaves us three little children.

00:19:44 **MM: With him to raise?**

00:19:45 JW: With him, and he had to be in Columbia, so he would come—and I don't know why Winthrop rather than some other school—but he would get girls to student teach and live in his house for six weeks at a time and take care of his children.

00:20:01 **MM: Did they go to school. Were they old enough so you carried them to school?**

00:20:03 JW: They went to school; well, I don't know how they got to school.

00:20:07 **MM: They rode the bus?**

00:20:09 JW: We were there and we would have to go see that they did their homework.

00:20:16 **MM: And cook their supper for them?**

00:20:17 JW: We did not have to. They had a maid who came in the mornings and fixed breakfast for everybody and she would leave supper, but we had to go to student-parent-teacher meetings with those little children. It's kind of sad because you'd be there long enough to get attached. The children would get use to the girls and then it'd be six weeks—

00:20:37 **MM: Because you were there six weeks.**

00:20:40 JW: Six weeks. It was free room and board.

00:20:42 **MM: I was going to ask you that.**

00:20:43 JW: Yes, free room and board. It was nice for us, but it was hard on the children I think. But, that's where I did my student teaching, so I did not live in the dorm that last year because if I was going to be away for six weeks—I stayed at home my senior year.

00:20:58 **MM: And drove to classes on campus?**

¹ Peter Hyman was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1961-1970.

00:20:59 JW: Yes.

00:21:01 **MM: But then when time came to go, then you packed up and went to Florence?**

00:21:05 JW: My daddy bought me a little Rambler car and that's what I drove.

00:21:11 **MM: You felt important?**

00:21:14 JW: I did. I felt grown up.

00:21:15 **MM: Were the children hard to take care of?**

00:21:17 JW: No, they weren't. They were sweet.

00:21:19 **MM: Three of them?**

00:21:20 JW: Three children.

00:21:21 **MM: How old were they?**

00:21:22 JW: I want to say like nine or maybe...two were older than nine and the little boy he was the youngest. There were two girls and the little boy must have been in the first grade so it was sweet, precious children.

00:21:37 **MM: So you did help them with their homework at night?**

00:21:40 JW: We had to make sure that they did their homework.

00:21:44 **MM: That first grader didn't have that much.**

00:21:45 JW: No.

00:21:46 **MM: But you practiced with him?**

00:21:48 JW: They were not hard to take care of. They were used to doing this I guess. We weren't the first ones to go there—the other Winthrop girl and I.

00:21:57 **MM: You saw that they were dressed right in the morning to go to school. That is some experience.**

00:22:04 JW: See, we were under 21 ourselves and we had—now Barbra was married but she didn't have any—she was my roommate—and she didn't have any children,

so it was kind of the blind lead the blind, but we made it.

00:22:21 **MM: That took responsibility.**

00:22:22 JW: It did. She liked to stay with her husband on Sunday nights and she wouldn't come back. She'd just go straight Monday morning to her school.

00:22:32 **MM: Where did she live?**

00:22:33 JW: She lived in Myrtle Beach with her husband, so I had to be back every Sunday night early because the children had to have somebody. I think the daddy must have left on Mondays. Mondays through Thursdays or something, he was in Columbia.

00:22:51 **MM: That's an experience I've never heard of.**

00:22:54 JW: It was. He did that for I don't know how many years I guess, and in fact the whole six weeks we lived there I met their mother one time. She came home to visit her children maybe at Easter once which was sad.

00:23:09 **MM: It made you really think, didn't it?**

00:23:11 JW: It did.

00:23:14 **MM: That story is touching.**

00:23:18 JW: It was good for us because the free room and board and the nice family, but it was sad for the little children.

00:23:25 **MM: And the woman cooked breakfast.**

00:23:28 JW: The maid would fix the breakfast and she would wash our clothes for us.

00:23:31 **MM: Did she do that?**

00:23:32 JW: Yes, whatever had to be done during the day and then she have supper fixed. We'd come home from school and as soon as we got there she would leave and we'd heat up supper for all of us.

00:23:45 **MM: And clean the kitchen and get them ready for baths and go to bed?**

00:23:49 JW: And then we had to do our lesson plans or grade our papers or whatever we had to do for our jobs.

00:23:56 **MM: You earned it.**

00:23:57 JW: Well, [laughter] I think so.

00:23:59 **MM: You did. Were they good children?**

00:24:02 JW: They were.

00:24:02 **MM: They didn't get in little fights?**

00:24:03 JW: Well, little squabbles maybe, but not anything bad.

00:24:11 **MM: Was the food good?**

00:24:12 JW: The lady could really cook. She was a good cook.

00:24:15 **MM: And she bought the groceries?**

00:24:16 JW: I guess so because we didn't have to do that. Stuff was there. We didn't have to worry about what was there.

00:24:26 **MM: Did you carry them to school?**

00:24:30 JW: I don't think we did. I don't know whether a neighbor took them or a bus, I can't remember how that worked.

00:24:37 **MM: If you could go back to 1964, can you remember any of your professors?**

00:24:44 JW: Oh yes, I had Dr. Houk [spelling?].

00:24:48 **MM: And what did he teach?**

00:24:49 JW: Dr. Richard Houk taught biology and he was my advisor. I had Luckett Davis and Dr. John Freeman was head of the biology department. These were all good teachers and one of my favorite teachers was John Olson, Dr. Olson.

00:25:08 **MM: Olson?**

00:25:08 JW: Olson.

00:25:09 **MM: O-L-S-O-N?**

00:25:11 JW: O-L-S-O-N. He taught ecology and genetics and I really—

00:25:17 **MM: I bet that was interesting.**

00:25:19 JW: He was a good teacher, and Dr. Houk I run into occasionally around town.

00:25:25 **MM: Do you really? And he remembers you?**

00:25:28 JW: He does.

00:25:31 **MM: What was your favorite class?**

00:25:23 JW: I liked genetics. I really liked genetics.

00:25:42 **MM: Would you recommend the biology program here for other students?**

00:25:48 JW: I have no idea what it's like now.

00:25:50 **MM: I bet it's a lot better.**

00:25:51 JW: Well, probably, but it was good then I thought. I thought we had a good background.

00:26:01 **MM: Did you ever feel like you were not prepared?**

00:26:14 JW: Not really, because Mrs. Linder had done such a good job. Some of the classes were harder than others, but it just took a lot of studying. We'd have to do things like special when we did take genetics; we had to breed fruit flies.

00:26:31 **MM: Oh! Tell me about that.**

00:26:33 JW: You know what they are? Ok, well we would have to use ether to put them to sleep. You don't want to kill them. You didn't want to give them too much ether, and then you would take a little paint brush and separate the males from the females.

00:26:48 **MM: And you could tell the difference?**

00:26:49 JW: You could tell, yes. I can't remember now how, but we did then, and then we would separate the red eyed ones from the white eye ones. You had to do this within a certain length of time to get virgin females because you would put the virgin ones, maybe the virgin red eyed females, in with the male white eyed.

- 00:27:13 **MM: And see what would come out?**
- 00:27:16 JW: And then they wake up and they'd be in a jar with food of some type, and you'd wait so many days until the new ones were born, and then you'd have to put them to sleep and count. Then, you'd do ratios on how many red eyed children were born—or hatched—and we had to get up at sometimes 3 o'clock in the morning.
- 00:27:37 **MM: Because that's when it would happen?**
- 00:27:40 JW: We would go over to the lab to make sure you could not give them too much time or they wouldn't be virgins anymore, so you had to get them quickly and count. So that was a fun thing.
- 00:27:51 **MM: That would be fun. And you kept a scale right?**
- 00:27:54 JW: We had to keep real detailed records.
- 00:28:00 **MM: And that can be related to humans?**
- 00:28:03 JW: Yes, this is how we really learned the laws of genetics, the ratios of how many—
- 00:28:10 **MM: And this is what you taught in high school?**
- 00:28:12 JW: I did.
- 00:28:14 **MM: Did you do any experiments like that?**
- 00:28:16 JW: We did, but I can't remember because I didn't get to teach biology but a year or so, and then I ended up teaching earth science when I came back to Rock Hill.
- 00:28:32 **MM: You were away for awhile?**
- 00:28:33 JW: I taught in Anderson for a year and I taught in Atlanta for a year. I taught biology both those years. When I came back to Rock Hill the only job opening was for, seems like it was 9th grade general science which I knew nothing about, but I kept ahead of the kids. Then, the next year the principle wanted somebody in the 8th grade to do earth science so I started taking courses and I got my masters degree.
- 00:29:10 **MM: From here?**

- 00:29:11 JW: I got my masters from Winthrop in biology but I took courses too at Carolina so I could learn some earth science.
- 00:29:21 **MM: You always wanted to be prepared?**
- 00:29:23 JW: Well you had to be.
- 00:29:31 **MM: Did you ever participate on any sports team?**
- 00:29:39 JW: Only basketball; intramural basketball.
- 00:29:44 **MM: And that was when you didn't leave the court?**
- 00:29:48 JW: Well, in those days for girls we had what was called a roving guard and I was the roving guard and I could run up and down the whole court, but the other players, the guards had to stay on one end and forwards who did the shooting they don't ever. And I was the one that got to dribble the ball down.²
- 00:30:11 **MM: I never saw it played like that.**
- 00:30:13 JW: I don't know why.
- 00:30:14 **MM: So at one time they had four off of one team, if you were roving.... am I right?**
- 00:30:22 JW: Yes, that's right, the roving guard.
- 00:30:25 **MM: That meant four against three?**
- 00:30:26 JW: Sometimes I guess, I can't remember how but I just know that that finally changed, but while I was at Winthrop we had roving guards.
- 00:30:37 **MM: And you played other college teams?**
- 00:30:40 JW: No, we didn't. It wasn't other colleges; we just played other teams at Winthrop somehow. I don't think we played other colleges, they didn't have that then.

² Jane West is talking about a form of basketball played by women that have since been phased out. It was a game of six-on-six, sometimes seven-on-seven, as opposed to the standard five-on-five. Players were designated as guards or forwards and had to stay on their designated sides.

- 00:30:51 **MM: That was fun?**
- 00:30:52 JW: It was.
- 00:30:58 **MM: You told me about your student teaching. Do you think that was a success?**
- 00:31:04 JW: It didn't really prepare me for the classroom.
- 00:31:07 **MM: That's what I was asking.**
- 00:31:08 JW: Yea, I don't know why. The classes then were—the education classes were different somehow, I don't know what. I knew one girl who did her student teaching before she ever took education classes.
- 00:31:25 **MM: My goodness, how can you do that?**
- 00:31:27 JW: Well, they did, I don't know, she got to do that and she said in a way it made what she studied more meaningful because she—but I would hate to go in a classroom and know nothing about methodology, but I had a lot to learn.
- 00:31:48 **MM: When you got a real job?**
- 00:31:49 JW: When I got a real job. The first couple of years and really in those days it was the trial by fire. You didn't have much help or support and if you survived you learned some things and got better.
- 00:32:08 **MM: What'd you do in discipline?**
- 00:32:10 JW: I never had much discipline problems. I don't know why, but the first year I taught, some of the boys—had to teach a health class—and some of the senior boys needed one more thing to graduate, them big ole football players. They were almost as old as I was because I was 21. They were maybe 18 or 19. I don't know. I would have done things differently I'm sure if I'd known better. I had to learn as I went along.
- 00:32:43 **MM: What do you think about—I've seen it happen—students go all the way to their senior year and get ready to go to student teaching and then they're sent out there in the classroom and they go berserk?**
- 00:32:55 JW: I don't know.
- 00:32:57 **MM: Did you go into the classroom any before you started student teaching?**

- 00:33:02 JW: No, we didn't have student cadet things like they do nowadays. In high schools they offer cadet programs where you could go and observe or—we didn't have that.
- 00:33:14 **MM: They go to elementary schools and help some of the smaller children?**
- 00:33:17 JW: We didn't have that, or at least if we did I didn't take advantage of it.
- 00:33:24 **MM: Did you ever stay on campus on the weekends?**
- 00:33:27 JW: Sometimes I did. I didn't date a lot so—I had to study. I spent most of my time studying.
- 00:33:38 **MM: Good for you.**
- 00:33:39 JW: Well, I don't know [laughter].
- 00:33:44 **MM: What did you do for entertainment on the weekends if you stayed here?**
- 00:33:48 JW: Well, sometimes...I don't remember what we did. I know we played a lot of bridge—Winthrop bridge and I don't know whether the rules were different then real bridge or not—but we played a lot of cards. I can remember going to—that best friend that I was telling you about—her brother had a little band and we were like little early groupies. We would follow the band different places and we liked music.
- 00:34:22 **MM: What kind of music did he play?**
- 00:34:23 JW: Rock and roll. These were the early days of rock and roll.
- 00:34:27 **MM: The Beatles?**
- 00:34:28 JW: Well, it was even before the Beatles, before they got real popular. Some of the music they played was that, but I can't remember what all they played.
- 00:34:39 **MM: Elvis was gone by then?**
- 00:34:40 JW: No, still around.
- 00:34:44 **MM: He was in my day.**
- 00:34:47 JW: Well, see your day and my day overlap [both laugh].

00:34:54 **MM: Did you have a hard time getting a job?**

00:34:57 JW: No, I didn't.

00:34:58 **MM: Do you think the Winthrop diploma helped you?**

00:35:01 JW: I do. Winthrop had a very good reputation.

00:35:03 **MM: That's what all the students are saying, that people knew what was coming from a Winthrop diploma and you believe that?**

00:35:13 JW: I do; at that time, now I don't know.

00:35:22 **MM: I know the Winthrop image has changed a lot since you were here, and you said you thought about driving around campus. When was the last time you drove around campus?**

00:35:34 JW: Probably in several years. Since all the new buildings, since they closed roads that use to be there, I haven't been through.

00:35:45 **MM: And one thing is happening here, men are staying on the campus.**

00:35:49 JW: They didn't have that then.

00:35:49 **MM: What do you think about that?**

00:35:51 JW: I don't know, I guess that's progress, but I still miss the good ole days I guess.

00:36:04 **MM: Who was the president when you were here?**

00:36:07 JW: Charles Davis. Dr. Davis.

00:36:10 **MM: Did he ever come to your classes?**

00:36:12 JW: Not to my remembrance.

00:36:14 **MM: Do you remember ever seeing or meeting him?**

00:36:17 JW: Yes, we met him; he had tea to welcome the girls and we'd sometimes see him in the programs—those compulsory things were had to go to. He would speak.

- 00:36:36 **MM: With everything that's happened in your life, do you think Winthrop gave you what you needed for your profession?**
- 00:36:43 JW: Yes, I do. I was well prepared as far as the subject matter and I think the tricks of the trade I think you have to learn by doing in the classroom.
- 00:36:58 **MM: How about some of the other classes like math or English. How did you...**
- 00:37:03 JW: I liked English. I have a minor in English and I did well. I remember one particular teacher and her name was Dr. Duls. D-U-L-S. She was—seemed elderly then, but she was a crackerjack. Seems like she taught grammar and I can remember diagraming sentences. People don't diagram anymore and I don't see how they'll understand the parts of speech. She would give us sentences that we would have to tape notebook paper to go on and on and on. She was a good—
- 00:37:44 **MM: And you like glued it?**
- 00:37:47 JW: Glued it and taped it together to make it long enough to get all the prepositional phrases and whatever, but she—I had a good background in English; I only took one math class though.
- 00:37:58 **MM: Is that all that was required?**
- 00:37:58 JW: That's all I was required to take.
- 00:38:00 **MM: And what was that?**
- 00:38:01 JW: Algebra trig. I had taken four years of math in high school, but this algebra trig was very different somehow.
- 00:38:10 **MM: What year did you take it?**
- 00:38:10 JW: Freshman year. We spent all our time proving stuff that I never knew why. I was glad not to have to take anymore math, although I needed math and the sciences, but somehow I got by. I took three years of French and I did not do well in French—I passed, but that was—and I took a year of chemistry. Maybe I shouldn't tell you this, but I will. I studied very, very hard, but I did not take advanced chemistry in high school like some of my friends did and the people who had had advanced chemistry in high school just breezed through freshman chemistry. Probably the same thing, but I didn't breeze through. I can remember getting five correct on a test. I don't know out of how many—probably fifty and I

passed. He had to curve grades so it wasn't just me, but I struggled with chemistry. That was the only D I made in College. I was glad—[crosstalk]

00:39:16 **MM: So your freshman year—**

00:39:17 JW: Was rough.

00:39:18 **MM: You had that French and you had chemistry and you had that math.**

00:39:23 JW: Yes, and biology and English. I had a lot of—my grades were just kind of average the first year or maybe even two. I didn't really start doing well until I got really into that, but we started taking—our freshman year we took biology classes. They were sophomore classes but we went into them early so that was great.

00:39:50 **MM: Did you study alone or do you like to work with other people?**

00:39:52 JW: Well, the first year, I can't remember what my roommate majored in—probably elementary ed.—she and I were so different we didn't even go eat together. We got along, but we just didn't have a lot in common. I would spend my time with that best friend who lived in a different dorm, but we'd meet to eat and then go to events together.

00:40:19 **MM: Was she taking some of the same classes?**

00:40:20 JW: She took biology, majored in that too. She taught biology.

00:40:26 **MM: So you studied together?**

00:40:28 JW: After we moved into Phelps dorm we had suites—two rooms that shared a bathroom—and I roomed with my cousin, who was an elementary ed. a year behind us, and my best friend Terry and her roommate were biology majors too, so the three of us studied biology a lot all the time together.

00:40:52 **MM: How many hours a day do you think you studied?**

00:40:57 JW: Well, after the time we were in class, four or five in the evening; at least three hours because of quiet time.

00:41:07 **MM: And you had to share it over all those three that you had found real difficult?**

00:41:12 JW: It seems like we in those days we had every other day classes: Monday-Wednesday-Friday and Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday.

- 00:41:20 **MM: You had Saturday classes?**
- 00:41:21 JW: Oh yes, they had done away with that. Nowadays they do—I don't even think they have Friday classes at York Tech anymore because my daughter's taking some classes and she doesn't have to go on Fridays, but in those days we had to go on Saturdays and so you would have at least a night or so to get ready for the next time. It was a lot of reading and a lot of studying. It didn't come easy to me.
- 00:41:49 **MM: You're just saying that.**
- 00:41:50 JW: No, it really didn't. I had to study. I didn't do well in everything. I never failed a class; I only made that one D, but I was glad to see that D [laughter].
- 00:42:02 **MM: What did mom and daddy think about that?**
- 00:42:04 JW: They never mentioned it. They never did. They never put pressure on me. I've always liked school and elementary and high school.
- 00:42:13 **MM: It hurt you though didn't it? Your emotions?**
- 00:42:16 JW: Yes, it did, because it was a struggle to send me to college.
- 00:42:20 **MM: Money wise?**
- 00:42:21 JW: Money wise.
- 00:42:25 **MM: Your sister went too?**
- 00:42:27 JW: She decided to go to cosmetology school; she fixed hair and loved it.
- 00:42:33 **MM: That didn't take her long?**
- 00:42:35 JW: Well, it seems like she did—she went to school a year in Charlotte maybe to do that.
- 00:42:45 **MM: Would you do the same thing over again?**
- 00:42:48 JW: As far as my education? Yes, I would.
- 00:42:53 **MM: And you praise Winthrop?**
- 00:42:55 JW: I do. Winthrop was a good school. In those days we were maybe sheltered. It

was more of the Winthrop faculty and the dorm mothers and all were like substitute parents. There were a lot of rules; you couldn't do this, you couldn't do that.

00:43:22 **MM: You have to sign in and out?**

00:43:23 JW: You have to sign in and out when you went on a date.

00:43:26 **MM: And the date would be Friday night?**

00:43:29 JW: I guess.

00:43:30 **MM: Because the other nights you studied.**

00:43:32 JW: That's true. I didn't date much anytime, but you did have to sign in and out and there was a curfew. You couldn't be out past a certain length of time, probably 11.

00:43:46 **MM: And the boys couldn't go any further than the front room?**

00:43:49 JW: They just came into that parlor.

00:43:57 **MM: You had an exciting time?**

00:43:59 JW: Well, it was different; it was eye opening. As I said earlier I was kind of naive and country person and to meet all these girls who were from different parts of the country and some of them were wealthy. I had one girl on our hall who had skied in the Alps and that just amazed me.

00:44:23 **MM: That she had that experience?**

00:44:24 JW: Yes. That was just an everyday no big deal to her. Another girl on our hall that freshman year had never seen snow. She was from Florida, and one night it snowed and she got outside. We lived on the 2nd floor so the windows at the end of the hall you could climb out there—in the summer or spring they'd sunbath—well, she just danced in the snow. She had never seen it before so that amazed me that someone had never seen snow. It was just an eye opening thing.

00:44:54 **MM: What percent of the students had a car?**

00:44:59 JW: One girl, the girl that I mentioned had skied in the Alps had an antique car and I don't know what it was and I don't know where she kept it, but nobody that I knew had a car other than her. I guess the upperclassmen maybe did, but none of

us did.

00:45:20 **MM: If you needed something personal from the store, was there any way you could get it?**

00:45:26 JW: Well, I guess we could have walked over here because Harris Teeter maybe was over here back in those days. It was a grocery store. I remember when McDonalds first came, or maybe it was Burger king, and that was just—but I didn't have the money to go do that. That was a once and a while treat.

00:45:51 **MM: You ate all your meals in the cafeteria?**

00:45:55 JW: Yes, other than when I came home on the weekend.

00:45:58 **MM: Did you ever bring food back with you?**

00:46:01 JW: No, I don't remember doing that. I probably did. I just don't remember doing it.

00:46:09 **MM: And you took your clothes home on the weekends and washed them?**

00:46:12 JW: They had a laundry service that maybe I tried once or twice, but everything had to be labeled and it seems like they'd come back stiff or something. I may have done that a time or two, but it was easier to tote them home on the weekends. And I believed we had to share a faucet—I'm not sure.

00:46:36 **MM: So you didn't have many clothes up here?**

00:46:37 JW: No. You couldn't. If we didn't share a closet, they were small.

00:46:43 **MM: You could go in and out of home and exchange clothes back and forth. You like packed for the week?**

00:46:53 JW: I don't remember much, but I was thinking earlier—I don't remember what it woke up and threw on my clothes and brushed my teeth because I didn't go to breakfast much, maybe that first 8 o'clock class.

00:47:19 **MM: Did you have 8 o'clock class every time?**

00:47:22 JW: Just about every day, and the lab classes were longer. On the days that you have the science thing the lab would be two or three hours.

00:47:36 **MM: I know I been through that.**

- 00:47:38 JW: Yes, so took extra time.
- 00:47:42 **MM: Well, it's been a real joy talking to you about life here in the 60s.**
- 00:47:49 JW: Well, I enjoyed it. It was the good times
- 00:47:50 **MM: And what you think you got from being here.**
- 00:47:53 JW: Winthrop gave me a good foundation.
- 00:48:00 **MM: That's wonderful and I hope that somebody in the future will listen to this and know just how happy you were.**
- 00:48:10 JW: [laughter] I wasn't so happy then. I'm happier now looking back.
- 00:48:15 **MM: Since you retired?**
- 00:48:16 JW: Since I've retired, but I don't remember being unhappy at Winthrop, but if I didn't spend a lot of frivolous time—
- 00:48:26 **MM: It was a challenge wasn't it.**
- 00:48:28 JW: It was work, hard work, but I enjoyed it.
- 00:48:32 **MM: Because you knew what you were planning for?**
- 00:48:34 JW: Yes, and I enjoyed meeting girls from all different backgrounds.
- 00:48:40 **MM: Did you have foreign students here then?**
- 00:48:42 JW: We did, and I can remember the first African American. We integrated during my time. There were two girls and they lived in Roddey Hall.
- 00:48:54 **MM: And they lived together?**
- 00:48:55 JW: They lived together and one of them that I came to know, her name was Arnetta Gladen³, she was a biology major and she was a tall girl. I think she played basketball so I may have played basketball with her, but she and I—I got to know Arnetta and she since passed away, but she has a daughter who looks just like her.

³ See OH# 17.

00:49:21 **MM: Is she from Rock Hill?**

00:49:23 JW: Well, yes because I ran into her at the doctor. I walked in, this was probably like in the last ten years and I thought there's Arnetta, and it was her daughter. I read in the paper, Arnetta had married a policeman I believe, and I don't know what she died of but I was sad to read that. She was smart and funny. The other girl, the other African American girl I don't—I never—

00:49:51 **MM: She was from Rock Hill.**

00:49:52 JW: Arnetta was, yes, so they were the first two and I know it was hard for them.

00:49:57 **MM: Aren't we glad that they can be like us.**

00:49:59 JW: Yes, but at that time I know it was difficult because it was so much pressure on them to do well and she did do well but it wasn't easy for her.

00:50:11 **MM: I have enjoyed listening to everything you said.**

00:50:21 *End of interview*